

## REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-11. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-11.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,262) in view of Di-Crescenzo (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,554); claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama in view of Kawagoe (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,563) in view of Di-Crescenzo; and claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama in view of Kawagoe. These rejections are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as recited in claims 1-11 are not taught or suggested by Kodama, Di-Crescenzo or Kawagoe whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to each of claims 1-11 so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Kodama, Di-Crescenzo or Kawagoe whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Particularly, amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly recite that according to the present invention a preferred order of updating particular data or databases included in update data is provided so that particular types of data whose use and availability is critical can be updated quickly prior to other data which may not be so critical.

The above noted features of the present invention are described on page 6, lines 4-17 and page 10, line 1 through page 11, line 28. In these passages it is specifically described that data such as inventory or merchandise master tables are designated as having a higher preference for updating relative to other types of data. This feature of the present invention allows for the advantage quick updating of critical data to which access is constantly required relative to other types of data.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to Figs. 3 and 5 in which it is graphically illustrated how preferential order information 214, 313, 323 is reflected relative to the different types of data. According to the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims this preferential order information reflected with respect to each of the different types of data is used in a manner so as to control the preferred sequence of updating the different types of data. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

Kodama discloses a relational database synchronization method wherein master data is synchronized with data of replica machines. As per Kodama data is updated usually with the replica machines disconnected from a master machine so that there will be no inconsistencies among the data. Kodama teaches that differential data is reflected in the replica data of the replica machine so that such differential data can be extracted. However, this teaching of Kodama has nothing with the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims wherein preferential order information is used so as to control the preferred sequence of updating particular types of data.

Therefore, Kodama fails to teach or suggest a preferential order information memory unit for holding preferential order information indicating a preferred order of updating a specific database or a part thereof of update data of the master database on the replica as recited in the claims.

Further, Kodama fails to teach or suggest an allocation unit for reading the updating data and selectively extracting the update data according to the preferential order information and a management unit for updating the replica with the extracted update data as recited in the claims.

The above described deficiencies of Kodama are not supplied by any of the other references record namely the Di-Crescenzo or Kawagoe whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, the combining the teachings of Kodama with one or more of Di-Crescenzo and Kawagoe still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in the claims.

Di-Crescenzo teaches a system and method for privately retrieving selected information from a database. As taught by Di-Crescenzo a server determines a first and second commodity, communicates the first commodity to an inquiring processor and the second commodity to the database and retrieves the selected information from the database based on the first commodity and the second commodity such that the selected information is not revealed to the database. In Di-Crescenzo as set forth in col. 3, lines 46-48 the inquiring processor extracts the selected information in the database from the result received from the database. This teaching of Di-Crescenzo merely relates a reading operation.

Further, in Di-Crescenzo as set forth at col. 6, lines 11-12 the retriever 315 stores the results of each execution in the temporary database in the order of execution. However, this teaching of Di-Crescenzo simply relates to storing the result of the retrieval according to the order of execution and as much has nothing whatsoever to do with the extracting of update information of particular types of data according to preferential order information as now recited in the claims.

Therefore, Di-Crescenzo suffers from the same deficiencies as Kodama relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Particularly, Di-Crescenzo fails to teach or suggest a preferential order information memory unit for holding preferential order information indicating a preferred order of updating a specific database or a part thereof of update data of the master database on the replica as recited in the claims.

Further, Di-Crescenzo fails to teach or suggest an allocation unit for reading the update data and selectively extracting the update data according to the preferential order information and a management unit for updating the replica with the extracted update data as recited in the claims.

Kawagoe teaches a method and device for synchronizing databases in a network management system. As taught by Kawagoe, a management information database of a network manager and network elements each store management information and database identifiers that indicate the update history of the management information. In Kawagoe, database information is updated each time the network manager sets or manipulates management information of each of the network elements and such management information includes the identifiers of the

network manager and network elements that are subject to manipulation as well as access time that indicates the time operations are carried out.

Kawagoe also teaches that when the management information is overwritten by backup data, the database information stored by each of the network manager and the network elements is compared and in the event of discrepancies the management information stored in the network element is uploaded and the management information stored in the management information database of the network manager is updated by such uploaded management information.

The above described teachings of Kawagoe do not relate to providing an indication regarding the preferred order of updating particular types of data included within update data as in the present invention. Thus, Kawagoe suffers from the same deficiencies as both Kodama and Di-Crescenzo relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Therefore, Kawagoe fails to teach or suggest a preferential order information memory unit for holding preferential order information including a preferred order of updating a specific database or a part thereof of update data of the master database on the replica as recited in the claims.

Further, Kawagoe fails to teach or suggest an allocation unit for reading the update data and selectively extracting the update data according to the preferential order information and a management unit for updating the replica with the extracted update data as recited in the claims.

Since, as shown above, each of Kodama, Di-Crescenzo and Kawagoe suffer from the same deficiencies relative to the features of the present invention as now

more clearly recited in the claims combining such references in the manner suggested by the Examiner would still fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as more clearly recited in the claims. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above described rejections of the claims under 35 USC §103 based on the combination of two or more of Kodama, Di-Crescenzo and Kawagoe is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (520.39413X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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Carl I. Brundidge  
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc  
(703) 312-6600